

Meeting Date: 04-17-07

AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Item # 4A

Santa Clara



City of Santa Clara, California



DATE: April 10, 2007

TO: City Manager for Council Information

FROM: Administrative Analyst to the City Manager

SUBJECT: National Volunteer Recognition Week and Presentation of Neil Henry Volunteer Recognition Award under Special Order of Business

National Volunteer Recognition Week, April 22-28, 2007, provides an opportunity to show appreciation of City volunteers for their contributions to public service in their community. The City of Santa Clara benefits from the assistance of volunteers of all ages who work in almost every City department; however, while we celebrate the efforts of all our volunteers, one particular volunteer will be honored with the Neil Henry Volunteer Recognition Award.

Cleo Stuckrath will be presented with the Neil Henry Volunteer Recognition Award in acknowledgement of her long-standing volunteer work with the Senior Center and "Showtime." It is our pleasure to highlight the volunteer service of Cleo Stuckrath, and to acknowledge all volunteers as part of National Volunteer Recognition Week.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Morrison".

Pam Morrison

Administrative Analyst to the City Manager

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Sparacino".

Jennifer Sparacino
City Manager

**Nomination of Cleo Stuckrath
for the
Neil Henry Volunteer Recognition Award**

For nearly 35 years, Cleo Stuckrath has given her time and talents to help the City of Santa Clara and its Senior Center. Cleo began her career as a volunteer with the City by teaching tap-dancing and ukulele classes at the newly opened Senior Center in 1973. Out of the dancing classes, Cleo formed the "Dancing Grandparents," a group of dancing seniors who perform at no cost at the various nursing homes and senior retirement homes in the area.

In 1983, Cleo established and served as first president of the Santa Clara Women's League specifically to raise funds for the nursing service at the Santa Clara Senior Center. This service provides two part-time registered nurses to whom seniors can come for assessment of specific health problems, blood pressure readings, classes that provide self-help information on relevant topics, as well as screenings by medical professionals. These nurses also visit homebound seniors who have health-related needs, allowing them to remain in their own homes and improve their quality of life. These services are all provided free of charge to senior residents.

When the nursing program was endangered by Proposition 13 cutbacks, Cleo rose to the challenge. In March 1983, she began the annual tradition known as "Showtime." Showtime consists of an original melodrama (written, produced, and directed by Cleo) with a catchy title such as "Dastardly Deeds at Doomstown (or) Poor Piteous Paulina," and a variety show featuring talented locals. Even the current Chief of Police, Steve Lodge, has been seen up on stage. Showtime, now in its 25th year, has become a must-see event, with proceeds donated to the Senior Center Health and Wellness program. Since 1983, Showtime has raised over \$250,000 to benefit this worthy cause. Cleo's devotion to making Showtime a hit each year is obvious to everyone involved in the production; her energy, enthusiasm, and dedication is key to the show's success.

In addition to teaching classes and producing Showtime, Cleo Stuckrath is also involved in the welfare of her peers by serving as a commissioner on the Senior Advisory Commission. Cleo served two full terms and a partial term from 1976 to 1985. She rejoined the commission for one term from 1988 to 1992, was reappointed in 1999, and is currently serving her fifth full term, which will expire in 2007.

The Neil Henry Volunteer Recognition Award was established to honor community members who, while serving in an official capacity, distinguish themselves for activity significantly above and beyond the norm of volunteerism and who, through their own initiative and dedication, have performed exceptional or exemplary long-term service to the community of Santa Clara. Cleo Stuckrath, through her long, dedicated, and innovative service to the City and its Senior Center, is clearly deserving of this honor.